OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY GRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

Abstracts for the OCT 1220 Graduate Student Research Projects

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Abstracts for Session 1

Exploring South Asian women's perinatal experiences through an occupational lens: A scoping review

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Introduction. During the perinatal period, from pregnancy to postpartum, women experience psychological, physiological, and occupational changes. This life stage is marked by occupational disruption and adaptation, alongside significant relational and identity shifts. Women from low- and middle-income countries, migrant women, and ethnic minority women face heightened challenges, with South Asian women encountering unique stressors and health disparities.

Objectives. This study describes what is known about South Asian women's perinatal experiences from an occupational lens.

Methods. A scoping review was conducted in accordance with the JBI Evidence Synthesis methodology and the PRISMA for Scoping Reviews' reporting guidelines. Six electronic databases were searched for relevant qualitative, peer-reviewed studies published from January 2015 to February 2025. Key search terms were grouped into two conceptual categories: perinatal and South Asian. Data will be extracted from the selected studies and analyzed using descriptive statistics and categorical analysis.

Results. Following a preliminary analysis of the studies selected for review based on inclusion criteria, the literature highlights cultural influences on perinatal occupations, support systems, occupational agency, identity and role transitions, and access and barriers to care.

Conclusions. This scoping review offers insight into South Asian women's perinatal experiences from an occupational lens, with the potential to inform culturally responsive, family-centered, and intersectional approaches to occupational therapy practice, education, and research for South Asian women in Western nations.

Exploring the occupational experiences of individuals living with religious scrupulosity

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Introduction. Individuals living with religious scrupulosity experience persistent religious and/or moral obsessions, along with compulsions that are performed to neutralize accompanying distress. Central to this disorder are rituals and distress that pervade everyday living and shape daily occupations; however, there is limited research into these experiences from an occupational lens.

Objectives. This study aims to provide insight into the complexities and nuances of daily occupation for those living with religious scrupulosity. In doing so, this study also seeks to demonstrate the relevance of religious scrupulosity to the field of occupational therapy.

Methods. Interpretive descriptive methodology was used to engage participants in one semi-structured, in-depth interview to gather stories of daily life and occupation. Data were analyzed through descriptive and value coding using inductive thematic analysis.

Results. Preliminary findings suggest that occupations relating to sexuality, social participation, and religious engagement are consistently impacted by experiences of religious scrupulosity. Impacts include low occupational satisfaction and disproportionately excessive or restrictive participation in an occupation. Preliminary findings also point to a constrained occupational repertoire in those experiencing religious scrupulosity.

Conclusion. This study provides insights into the occupational experiences of those living with religious scrupulosity. The findings of this study demonstrate the inherent occupational nature of religious scrupulosity, providing the foundation for future research into approaches for support within the field of occupational therapy.

Effects of the Zippy's Friends for Kids with Special Needs Program on Coping and Social Skills of Children with Disabilities: An Exploratory Quantitative Case Study

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Introduction. Many educational programs designed to teach coping and social skills to children are shown to promote positive mental health. However, there is a lack of evidence-based programs that target children with disabilities, despite this population experiencing higher rates of mental health challenges and limited access to mental health services. Zippy's Friends is a school-based program originally designed to promote mental health in typically-developing children, but it was adapted into an outpatient program at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, called Zippy's Friends for Kids with Special Needs (ZFKSN).

Objective. This study aims to assess the effects of ZFKSN on the coping and social skills of children with disabilities aged 6-10 years.

Methods. This exploratory quantitative case study examined the effects of the adapted ZFKSN intervention on two 7-year-old children, based on caregiver reports. Standardized assessments were used and scored, including the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM), Social Skills Improvement System (SSIS), and KidCOPE to evaluate social and coping skills. The COPM measured caregiver-rated performance and satisfaction (pre- and post-intervention); the SSIS captured frequency of social skills and problem behaviours; and KidCOPE summed coping strategies utilized.

Results. Data was collected at pre- and post-intervention, and 3-months follow up. There were inconsistent findings with mixed trends across the outcome measures.

Conclusion. The sample size was too small for statistical analysis. The trends identified are mixed, making it difficult to draw definitive conclusions, more research is needed.

Understanding Concussion in Special Olympics Canada: A Qualitative Analysis of Gaps, Needs, and Inclusive Practices

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Introduction. Special Olympics Canada (SOC) provides training and competition opportunities to over 45,000 individuals with intellectual disability. Athletes with intellectual disability are at risk for concussions and may experience prolonged recovery due to pre-existing cognitive and balance differences. Currently, SOC does not have a formal way to track the number and cause of concus (concussion surveillance) amongst their athletes, highlighting the need for a dedicated tool. Understanding the SOC community's perspectives is essential to co-developing a concussion surveillance tool applicable to athletes with intellectual disability.

Objectives. To understand the perspectives of SOC coaches and medical staff on considerations for a concussion surveillance tool that can meet the needs of the SOC community.

Methods. This study used a nominal group technique (NGT) to offer a standardized process for group discussion of ideas, including idea ranking (quantitative) and discussion of rationales behind the ranking process (qualitative). This study focuses on the qualitative facet by transcribing the NGT discussions, and analyzing the transcripts using inductive thematic analysis to understand participants lived experiences and rationales.

Results. The following themes were identified: 1) Gaps in current practice; 2) The importance of surveillance items included; 3) Helpful handover processes; and 4) Considerations for athletes with intellectual disability.

Conclusions. This study highlights the barriers, perspectives, and needs in concussion surveillance within the SOC community. It will help guide the development of an applicable concussion surveillance tool for athletes with intellectual disability and inform future concussion initiatives. This work emphasizes the need for inclusive tools to support safe and meaningful return-to-sport and other occupations for athletes with intellectual disability post-concussion.

The Clinical Guide to Discretionary Reporting for Occupational Therapists in Ontario (CG-DROTO) Training Module: An Implementation Study

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Introduction. In 2018, the Ontario Highway Traffic Act authorized Occupational Therapists (OTs) to submit discretionary reports regarding fitness-to-drive. However, many OTs do not feel confident executing this process. To bridge this gap, an evidence-informed guide and training module were developed, focusing on OT assessment, decision-making, and documentation for fitness-to-drive and discretionary reporting.

Objective. This study aims to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of a clinical guide and training module in enhancing OT self-efficacy and competency in discretionary reporting across various practice settings.

Methods. A mixed methods approach will evaluate the outcomes of the clinical guide and training module. OTs from diverse practice settings (acute care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, and community care) will be recruited for a 4-hour training session, followed by a 6-week implementation period. Data collection will include pre-training/post-training/post-implementation surveys, as well as a post-implementation focus group. Quantitative data will be analyzed descriptively, while qualitative data will undergo content analysis.

Results. Anticipated results will assess the effectiveness of the clinical guide and training module in enhancing OT self-efficacy and competency in discretionary reporting. Study results will guide further development of the clinical guide and training module and its application across different practice settings.

Conclusion. This study aims to enhance OT competency in discretionary reporting across various practice settings and may inform curriculum design at both academic and clinical levels. Improving OT self-efficacy and optimizing their participation in fitness-to-drive assessments and interventions, will further empower OT's to meet legislative and regulatory requirements regarding discretionary reporting.

Exploring how technology influences out-of-home participation of persons living with dementia or mild cognitive impairment: a scoping review

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Introduction: Aging-in-place presents challenges for persons living with dementia or mild cognitive impairment (PLWD/MCI). Cognitive deficits and unaccommodating environments often reduce their access to and participation in places outside the home. Technology (e.g. touchscreens) is increasingly embedded in everyday environments, but its role in supporting out-of-home (OoH) participation for PLWD/MCI has not been systematically reviewed.

Objectives: Using the Canadian Model of Occupational Participation, this scoping review aims to synthesize personal and contextual factors that shape how PLWD/MCI encounter or use technology in accessing or participating in OoH places.

Methods: This review applied the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology. MEDLINE, Scopus, CINAHL, PsycINFO, AgeLine, Embase, and ACM Digital Library were searched for articles addressing: 1) the design/development or use of ***technological products/services*** to promote 2) ***OoH participation*** for and by 3) ***PLWD/MCI***. After deduplication, 35280 articles were screened by title/abstract, 691 articles were full-text screened, and 130 articles were included for data extraction.

Results: Preliminary analysis illustrates OoH participation as functional and meaningful for PLWD/MCI, where technologies may enable or disable participation. PLWD/MCI with meaningful OoH motivations, past digital literacy, and supportive social networks are best positioned to sustain OoH participation. At the macro level, low public awareness and digital and cognitive inaccessibility often create structural barriers.

Conclusions: Technologies embedded into OoH experiences of PLWD/MCI can enable or disable meaningful and sustained participation, depending on personal and contextual factors. More dementia-inclusive attitudes and environments may facilitate sustained participation in OoH places.

A FASTER Approach to Developing and Evaluating a Smart Insole Technology for Persons Living with Early-Stage Dementia to Sustain Out-Of-Home Participation

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Introduction. Sustaining out-of-home participation (OHP) for persons living with dementia or cognitive impairment (PLWD/CI) is important for health and well-being, which can be limited by wandering and safety concerns. A smart insole technology (SIT) and mobile companion app containing tracking and care partner notification features may be valuable to support OHP and collaborative care strategies for PLWD/CI.

Objectives. A pilot feasibility study was conducted to (1) evaluate the SIT in real-world settings to guide technology development, and (2) refine research procedures to improve ethical robustness and safety for subsequent user testing with PLWD/CI and care partners.

Methods. This study operationalized Phase 2—*Progressive Usability and Feasibility Evaluation*—of the Framework for Accelerated and Systematic Technology-based intervention development and Evaluation Research (FASTER). An interdisciplinary research team evaluated the prototype by completing use cases in real-world environments. Data collection included fieldnotes, technical support memos, and questionnaires sensitized to four feasibility dimensions (technical performance, safety, usability, and perceived usefulness).

Results. Constraints of the prototype were identified and categorized through team-based thematic analysis. Key challenge areas include inconsistent location/activity tracking, non-configurable notifications, unintuitive/inaccessible user interface design, and hardware fragility—which may contribute to safety risks, frustration, and technology abandonment. Priority issues were flagged for resolution before testing with PLWD/CI and care partners.

Conclusions. This study demonstrated the collaborative and iterative evaluation and refinement process for a SIT and app to promote OHP and collaborative care strategies for PLWD/CI—showcasing the value of pilot feasibility studies and FASTER when designing technology solutions for vulnerable populations.

Long-term Follow-up of Mobile Application Use as a Memory Aid in Individuals with Acquired Brain Injuries Post-Memory Intervention Training: A Mixed Methods Study

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Introduction: Acquired brain injury (ABI) often leads to severe memory impairments that hinder daily functioning. Mobile applications are effective tools for improving functional memory but often require significant training investment; however, initial effectiveness is typically worthwhile, as demonstrated by Baycrest's Memory Link Program. No other study has followed memory-impaired individuals 4–15 years post-intervention.

Objective: The objective of this study was to evaluate the long-term use of smartphone-based memory aids post-memory intervention training.

Methods: Narrative interviews were conducted to gather overall and calendar app usage data and information about current activities and memory compensation behaviours. Additionally, participants were asked to complete five phone calls leaving pre-specified messages to the research assistant. Participants (and caregivers if available) also completed questionnaires about their memory aid use and smartphone experience.

Results: All participants reported using digital compensatory strategies as memory aids, primarily smartphone calendar and notes apps. Additionally, 16 of the 23 participants reported engaging in new leisure activities since initial training, with walking being the most prevalent activity. There was a moderate correlation for combined call time and message accuracy with number of days with calendar entries ($r = 0.540$, $p = 0.008$). No significant difference was found between call task accuracy at the end of initial training and long-term follow-up ($p = 0.153$).

Conclusion: Regular use of smartphone calendar apps was associated with better performance on phone call tasks. Digital compensatory strategies may not only support memory in the long-term but enhance functional independence in everyday activities for individuals with ABI.

Emerging OT Leaders Conceptualize Leadership: Exploring the LEADS Framework in a Community of Practice

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Introduction. Leadership plays a critical role in supporting effective healthcare delivery. Although occupational therapists (OTs) are well-suited to lead, they remain underrepresented in these roles and often lack formal leadership training. While leadership development resources are widely available and tailored for many healthcare disciplines, those specific to OTs are lacking.

Objectives. To inform more tailored supports, this study aims to understand how OTs who are new to leadership positions conceptualize the transition to their new roles, highlighting their unique strengths and leadership development needs.

Methods. This study explores reflective dialogue among participants and facilitators in a community of practice (CoP). Over ten months, eight semi-structured group discussions were conducted, each guided by the five competencies of the *LEADS* framework: Leading Self, Engaging Others, Achieving Results, Developing Coalitions, and Systems Transformation. Data were analyzed thematically using Quirkos software.

Results. Five key themes emerged. First, *Engaging Others* was central to leadership and interconnected with all other *LEADS* domains. Second, *Leading Self* was seen as foundational to developing leadership capacity. Third, participants described how core occupational therapy values shaped a holistic, values-driven leadership identity. Fourth, they expressed the greatest need for support in *Developing Coalitions* and *Systems Transformation*. Finally, mentorship was identified as essential to leadership development, emphasizing the value of continuous learning and feedback.

Conclusions. These findings offer insight into how OTs begin to define and enact leadership, their strengths, and where support is most needed. They also underscore the potential of a *LEADS*-informed CoP in fostering leadership development among allied health professionals.

Exploring the prevalence of children diagnosed with a movement disorder requiring of a mobility device in India: An Environmental Scan

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Introduction. Individuals living in low- and middle-income countries, such as India, have as low as 3% of access to needed assistive technology compared to high-income countries, having 90% access. Currently, there is insufficient data on the prevalence of pediatric disability population and how many of these children would benefit from assistive technology to support everyday functioning.

Objectives. The objective of this study is to estimate the prevalence of children living with a movement disorder aged 19 and under in India and how many of these children would benefit from a mobility device. This study hopes to offer valuable insights to rehabilitation professionals and AT vendors on the potential market size for mobility devices.

Methods. This study utilizes components of an environmental scan, influenced by scoping review methodology, to gather peer-reviewed and grey literature on the disability population in India. The researchers used the 2011 Census and the 2023 WHO population data to estimate the current rate of children with a movement disorder. Peer-reviewed articles that distributed cerebral palsy rates across the Gross Motor Function Classification System were applied to the 2023 estimated population of children with movement disorders to assess how many would benefit from a mobility device.

Results. It was estimated that as of 2023 the number of children with a movement disorder aged 19 and under is 3.28 million and of this population 37.3% would benefit from a mobility device.

Conclusion. The results highlight the apparent need for more mobility devices to support children who have been diagnosed with a movement disorder.

Leveling Up Social Skills: A Feasibility Study of Tabletop Role-Playing Games

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Introduction: Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) may experience challenges with social development. Occupational therapists are equipped to support these challenges. Tabletop role-playing games (TRPGs) involve individuals playing as characters in an imaginary world to collaborate, problem-solve and improvise, while the game master facilitates a dynamic narrative. Research indicates that TRPGs facilitate social development and meaningful occupational engagement. Further research is needed to validate TRPGs as an occupational therapy (OT) intervention.

Objectives: To inform future research, this study explores the feasibility of a study design and implementation of TRPGs as an OT intervention for social development in individuals with ASD.

Methods: A mixed-method, single-arm A-B feasibility study explored social development over an 8-week virtual TRPG OT intervention. Seven participants with ASD were recruited via convenience sampling and partnerships with Autism Ontario and Good Foot Delivery. Participants completed the Social Responsiveness Scale-2 (SRS-2) pre- and post-intervention. Clinical observation notes were completed. Post-intervention, semi-structured interviews with a narrative analysis investigated self-perceived social development.

Results: TRPG experience, group size, participant age, session duration, support required from facilitators during sessions, and active researcher participation are important considerations when using TRPGs as an OT intervention. The SRS-2 lacked sensitivity in capturing the targeted social skills; however, clinical reflection notes and semi-structured interviews revealed increased confidence and willingness to interact with others after TPRG participation.

Conclusions: Modifications to the study design that better facilitate and evaluate the social skills targeted by TRPGs will enhance the quality of future investigations on its effectiveness as an OT intervention.

Examining the relationship between musculoskeletal knowledge and fieldwork performance among student occupational therapists

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Introduction: To evaluate the physical aspects of occupational performance, occupational therapists (OTs) must understand the anatomical structure and function of the body. As such, occupational therapy academic programs must provide sufficient foundational musculoskeletal (MSK) education to prepare student OTs for successful clinical practice. There is a paucity of research on MSK educational needs, and the relationship between student OTs' MSK academic outcomes and fieldwork performance.

Objectives: This study examined the relationship between MSK anatomy course academic grades and fieldwork performance indicators on the Competency-Based Fieldwork Evaluation for Occupational Therapists (CBFE-OT) of student OTs.

Methods: A mixed-methods sequential explanatory design was conducted amongst first year student OTs who completed an MSK course and non-mental health focused fieldwork 1 and 2 placements. Researchers correlated retrospective cross-sectional data of academic grades and CBFE-OT performance scores. Following, content analysis of CBFE-OT comments was used to supplement quantitative findings. Researchers inductively coded CBFE-OT comments to identify MSK topics and used Bloom's Taxonomy to reveal how MSK topics were expressed.

Results: There was no correlation between student OTs' MSK course grades and CBFE-OT performance scores; except one mild positive correlation found between MSK grades and CBFE-OT Communication performance scores. Content analysis revealed an expectation for students to express MSK-focused knowledge through experiential learning. Comparatively, higher-level critical thinking involved in intervention and discharge planning was more often expressed as integrated interdisciplinary knowledge.

Conclusions: Findings will strengthen integrated learning of MSK knowledge with practice in occupational therapy programs, with hopes to optimally support faculty, students, and clinical partners.

Pain Interference in Young Adults with Brachial Plexus Birth Injuries

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Introduction. Brachial Plexus Birth Injuries (BPBIs) are the most frequent birth injury. Pain due to BPBIs is common in childhood and appears to worsen with age, yet often remains overlooked in adult care. There is a need to better understand how this pain interferes with daily life and where it occurs.

Objectives. This study compares pain interference in young adults with BPBI to matched controls using QuickDASH and Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) data. It also explores the relationship between upper-limb function and pain, and maps the location of pain within the BPBI group.

Methods. This cross-sectional case-control study is a secondary analysis of outcome data from young adults with BPBI (ages 19-34). Outcomes were measured using the BPI and QuickDASH. Independent variables included upper-limb function, BPBI severity, sex, gender, and self-reported BMI. Non-parametric statistical analyses (Mann-Whitney U and Spearman correlations) were conducted using SPSS Statistics v.29.

Results. Participants with BPBI had significantly higher pain intensity and interference scores than controls. Among those with BPBI, pain interference, intensity, and activity limitation were positively correlated. There was also a positive correlation between age and pain outcomes. Participants who self-reported a healthy BMI showed significantly lower pain. Mapping pain revealed widespread pain, most commonly on the affected side.

Conclusions. This study shows that pain in young adults with BPBI interferes with everyday life. Clinicians must screen for pain in adulthood and consider its impact on function. Future research should explore the nature of this pain, and address the gap in adult interventions.

Developing Feedback for the Bootle Blast Motor Training Video Game to Correct Gameplay Movement Errors in Children with Cerebral Palsy

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Introduction. Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common cause of childhood physical disability, often affecting upper limb (UL) coordination and strength. Home-based interactive computer play (ICP) can improve UL function, especially when it includes extrinsic performance feedback. Bootle Blast (BB), a movement-tracking ICP game, shows potential for improving UL function in children with CP. However, game feedback is currently results-oriented as opposed to providing knowledge of performance (KP) feedback. KP feedback could be used to optimize movement quality. This study aims to identify compensatory movements during BB gameplay and develop KP feedback to enhance movement quality and UL function.

Objectives. The objective of this study is to identify compensatory movements children with CP make while playing BB to inform development of in-game KP feedback.

Methods. Two coders conducted a systematic video analysis of 10 children with CP playing the BB game *Wizard's Adventure*, designed to promote unilateral shoulder abduction and elbow extension UL movements. Descriptive statistics were used to examine the types and frequencies of movement errors that occur during gameplay.

Results. 10 of 10 BB players engaged in compensatory movements during gameplay. Common movement errors included: lateral trunk movement, bilateral arm raise, sustained elbow flexion, and shoulder flexion.

Conclusions. This study enhances understanding of compensatory movements during BB gameplay to inform the development of KP feedback. The findings will guide the implementation of accurate, real-time, individualized KP feedback tailored to each player's needs, to improve movement quality, support therapeutic goal attainment, and ultimately promote participation in meaningful occupations.

COMPARING OUTCOMES OF CONSERVATIVE REHABILITATION PROTOCOLS FOR CAMPTODACTYLY IN PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

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Introduction. Camptodactyly is a flexion contracture of the proximal interphalangeal joint (PIPJ) initially presenting during infancy and/or adolescence. Commonly, the contracture occurs in the small finger (D5), but may affect multiple digits with or without association to distal arthrogryposis (DA). There is a need to understand the outcomes of conservative management for children with camptodactyly and DA.

Objective. To compare the outcomes of conservative management for PIPJ contracture of children with camptodactyly and DA.

Methods. This study is a retrospective cohort design. The Sickkids Plastic Surgery Clinic database was reviewed to identify children diagnosed with camptodactyly or DA. The primary outcomes data collected were the degree of PIPJ extension passive range of motion (PROM) of affected digits pre- and post- treatment. Paired comparative analysis measured change in PIPJ pre- and post- treatment. Additionally, comparative outcomes of the mean difference in PIPJ between Type I and Type II camptodactyly were conducted.

Results. Significant improvements were found pre- and post- treatment in children with camptodactyly. However, changes in PIPJ were not significant in children with DA. Further, no significant difference was found between Type I and Type II in their initial PIPJ extension PROM and treatment outcomes.

Conclusion. Camptodactyly and DA may require different hand therapy treatment protocols. Conservative management is indicated in both categories; however, interweaving interdisciplinary collaboration to provide conservative and surgical intervention is recommended for children with DA. Future research should consider the child and family's perspective on functional and aesthetic impacts of contractures and treatment outcomes.

Abstracts for Session 2

Examining the occupational therapy profession's historical role within colonial institutions in Canada: A narrative review

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Introduction. In 2023, the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists signed on to the Occupational Therapy Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Peoples in Canada. One required action is documenting the profession's historical role in colonial institutions.

Objectives. To document the occupational therapy profession's historical role in colonial institutions to commit to truth-telling and enhance culturally safer practices.

Methods. This narrative review employed an explanatory critical case study using textual analysis embedded in decolonizing theoretical perspectives, with support from critical realism. A systematic search of seven databases, MEDLINE, CINAHL, PsycINFO, SCOPUS, ERIC, Web of Science, and Sociological Abstracts was conducted with search terms that included the University of Alberta's Health Sciences search filters-Indigenous Peoples. The data generated was exported and uploaded to Covidence for title and abstract screening. A full-text review was conducted with data extracted from the included texts. The included articles were combined and summarized to report the findings.

Results. Preliminary findings from occupational therapy texts depict Indigenous Peoples with racist stereotypes and dehumanizing language. These texts illustrate a general lack of understanding for Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing.

Conclusions. This review will help the profession acknowledge our complicity in historical colonial policies as a key step toward supporting reconciliation. Findings will advance discussions on culturally safer practices and guide our professional communications and policies.

Assessing Client Satisfaction of the Enabling Inclusion Program with Translated Version of The Client Satisfaction Questionnaire-18B (CSQ-18B)

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Introduction: Standardized tools are essential for assessing service effectiveness and satisfaction, promoting continuous improvement and client-centred care. The Client Satisfaction Questionnaire-18B (CSQ-18B) is a standardized tool used to evaluate satisfaction. While the CSQ-18B has been translated into many languages, a validated Tamil version isn't available for use.

Objective: This cross-sectional study evaluated the psychometric properties of the Tamil CSQ-18B and compared satisfaction between clients receiving traditional rehabilitation (Non-TR) and telerehabilitation (TR) at Amar Seva Sangam in India.

Methods: Data were collected from 266 Non-TR and TR participants. Descriptive statistics, reliability, and factor analyses assessed internal consistency and construct validity. Group comparisons were made using independent samples T-tests and Mann-Whitney U tests due to normality violations.

Results: The Tamil CSQ-18B demonstrated good internal consistency ($\alpha=0.855$). Factor analysis revealed a 2-factor structure explaining 32% of variance, with most items loading >0.4, though some showed moderate cross-loadings, suggesting overlap in constructs. No significant group differences were found in satisfaction with a small effect size. Descriptive analyses showed slightly higher, but more variable scores, in the Non-TR group, while TR scores were more consistent.

Conclusions: Initial data collection and analysis show the Tamil CSQ-18B to be a reliable tool with strong internal validity and multidimensional construct validity for assessing satisfaction in rehabilitation. The two-factor structure may reflect culturally specific dimensions of service experience within the Tamil-speaking population. Satisfaction scores in this population were higher than those in international CSQ-18B studies, highlighting the need for further research into cultural influences on satisfaction.

Exploring Opportunities for Postpartum Healthcare Delivery: Perspectives from Occupational Therapists, Midwives, and Public Health Nurses

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Introduction The postpartum period involves significant physical, mental, emotional and occupational transitions. While midwives (MWs) and public health nurses (PHNs) traditionally support individuals during the postpartum period, there is an emerging opportunity for occupational therapists (OTs) to meaningfully contribute to postpartum care.

Objectives This student-led qualitative study aims to explore the perspectives of OTs, MWs, and PHNs regarding opportunities for interprofessional, collaborative postpartum care delivery through an occupational lens.

Methods Twelve semi-structured key informant interviews were conducted with registered OTs, MWs, and PHNs practicing in Ontario. These interviews were audio recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis. The research team explored both within-group and across-group experiences to gain insight into professional roles, collaboration and emerging opportunities in postpartum care.

Results Preliminary analysis identified four storylines/themes (still developing) surrounding interprofessional collaborative practice in postpartum healthcare. Participants recounted their *pathways into postpartum care* (including developing their interests in women's health more broadly). They also described their *approaches to practice with postpartum clients and the communities they serve*. Participants characterized postpartum care as interprofessional, however, limited understanding of each others' professional contributions led to *professional siloing.* They highlighted gaps in current service delivery models, including a *lack of maternal mental health screening*.

Conclusions Findings point to gaps in postpartum health care delivery as well as an emerging role for OTs in postpartum care. Additionally, it explores opportunities for OTs, midwives and PHNs to collaborate on service delivery in postpartum health care contexts and adds to the body of occupational science literature.

Exploring how Indigenous occupational therapists in Canada define, conceptualize, and experience mentorship

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Introduction. Indigenous occupational therapists (OTs) are underrepresented in the profession and face ongoing systemic challenges shaped by colonialism and racism. Mentorship has been identified as a critical factor in supporting Indigenous student retention and professional success, yet little is known about how Indigenous OTs themselves define and experience mentorship. There is a growing need for research led by and for Indigenous Peoples to inform how the profession can better support Indigenous excellence.

Objectives. This study explored how Indigenous OTs in Canada define, conceptualize, and experience mentorship. It also identified principles that support Indigenous learners, described unique mentorship needs, and provided recommendations to improve mentorship at individual and systemic levels.

Methods. This study used Indigenous Storywork methodology, guided by the principles of respect, responsibility, reciprocity, reverence, holism, interrelatedness, and synergy. Nine self-identified Indigenous OTs across Canada participated in virtual storytelling sessions. These sessions were analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis. Participants and an emerging Indigenous Occupational Therapy Collective provided feedback to refine the identified themes.

Results. Findings highlight mentorship as relational, culturally grounded, and community led. Participants emphasized identity, belonging, resistance to systemic barriers, and hopes for visionary, intergenerational mentorship rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing across practice and education.

Conclusions. This study centers Indigenous voices and experiences in occupational therapy in Canada. Results will inform future mentorship approaches support Indigenous student and clinician retention and contribute to the development of an Indigenous-led Occupational Therapy Collective.

Yoga as a modality in occupational therapy practice for adults experiencing mood disorders: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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Introduction. Yoga is a non-pharmacological intervention that promotes holistic health and helps manage clinical symptoms. There has been growing interest in potentially integrating yoga into occupational therapy (OT) settings to address specific disorders. Current studies examining yoga's potential to ameliorate mood disorder symptoms to enhance occupational participation have shown promising findings, however, research is still underdeveloped.

Objectives. To evaluate the current literature and identify the potential use of yoga in OT practice to manage symptoms and support the occupational participation of adults experiencing mood disorders.

Methods. This review adhered to the Preferred Reporting Items of Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. Quantitative data was extracted from twenty-two peer-reviewed articles published between 2002 and 2024 using the Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcomes (PICO) framework. The Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) checklist was used to appraise the quality of the included studies. The 'metafor package' was used to conduct a meta-analysis and generate a forest plot to synthesize the data. An I^2 statistic was used to quantify the heterogeneity of the meta-analysis, and the trim and fill non-parametric method was used to complete sensitivity analyses.

Results. Preliminary findings of this review present yoga as a promising therapeutic tool to support the symptom management and daily functioning of adults experiencing mood disorders.

Conclusion. This review provides a comprehensive insight into the current literature on yoga's effectiveness in improving the symptoms and functioning of adults with mood disorders. However, more rigorous studies are needed to establish yoga's therapeutic effects on mood disorders.

Uncovering the strengths in fieldwork partnerships: A Qualitative research study

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Introduction. Fieldwork placements are essential to occupational therapy (OT) education, bridging academic learning with real-world clinical practice. In Ontario, recruiting fieldwork opportunities is increasingly difficult, possibly due to cohort sizes, health human resource challenges, role complexity and other under-explored considerations. While considerable attention is given to the benefits of fieldwork for students, little is known about what motivates occupational therapists (OTs) to take on the role of preceptor in today's evolving healthcare landscape.

Objectives. To identify what motivates OTs in Ontario to become preceptors, highlight the strengths and positive experiences that support fieldwork participation, and inform strategies to enhance clinical education using an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) approach.

Methods. Student researchers conducted semi-structured interviews with OTs, using a qualitative descriptive design. Interviews were transcribed and thematically analyzed using NVivo 15 software. Triangulation and reflexive journaling were used to ensure rigour and trustworthiness. Thematic analysis explored personal, professional, and systemic factors influencing preceptorship, with the goal of identifying strategies to promote engagement and enhance the quality and quantity of clinical education opportunities.

Results. Three themes emerged: (1) Meaning and Value of Preceptorship, (2) Enablers of Positive Experiences, and (3) Strengthening the System, with strategies identified for regulatory bodies, organizations, and universities to enhance preceptor engagement.

Conclusions. This research highlights the positive aspects of preceptorship and provides insights to inform strategies and initiatives that support OTs in preceptor roles. Findings emphasize the need to align personal, professional, and systemic supports to sustain high-quality clinical education.

Cottage Country: The lived experiences of pediatric occupational therapists in rehabilitation services

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Introduction. The District of Muskoka and the Parry Sound District create a bridge between Southern and Northern Ontario; it is crucial to understand the resources available as we travel away from dense areas, such as Toronto, and reach the gateway to the North. The scarcity of research in this area limits rehabilitation service access, and decreases the visibility, value and interest of non-urban practice for OTs.

Objectives. The objective of this study is to explore the lived experiences of OT working in pediatric rehabilitation settings in the District of Muskoka and/or the Parry Sound District.

Methods. This study examines data collected from three semi-structured interviews conducted with pediatric occupational therapists (OTs). A thematic analysis was used to establish codes and generate themes and sub-themes.

Results. Participants identified the opportunity to engage in a variety of practice models, which requires high travel expectations for both parties. OTs practicing in these areas indicated a lack of therapists and resources, which impacts their ability to provide services to the populations that need them. The professional organizations and guidelines were said to reflect metropolitan practice, and not rural communities. Overall, all participants emphasized the lifestyle opportunities and work-life balance these areas have to offer, making it an enticing area for practice.

Conclusions. This study provides insight into the lived experiences of pediatric occupational therapists in the District of Muskoka and Parry Sound District. It will educate current and future practitioners, as well as professional stakeholders, on the benefits and challenges of practice in these areas.

Intersectionality in Occupational Therapy: A Scoping Review

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Introduction. Complex social, structural, cultural, political, and economic systems allow for inequitable distributions of the social determinants of health, negatively impacting marginalized social identities, including their occupational participation, engagement, and performance. Intersectionality is the overlap of two or more marginalized social identities (e.g., identifying as a woman of colour with a disability), and is often related to systems of oppression (e.g., racism, ableism). There is a need to understand the emerging role of intersectionality within occupational therapy (OT) education, research, frameworks and models, clinical practice, and professional identities.

Objectives. This scoping review explored the existing literature on intersectionality and occupational therapy.

Methods. Following the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) methodology, peer-reviewed literature (published 2000-2025) was searched across MEDLINE (n=1645), PsycInfo (n=662), EMBASE (n=2239), and CINAHL (n=1743). Title and abstracts were independently screened by two reviewers using Covidence based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Data extraction and synthesis were used to describe the breadth of the literature.

Results. 13 articles were included, focusing on intersecting identities and themes involving race, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, culture, and socio-economic status/class. The results call for greater action from OT researchers, practitioners, educators, and policy and decision makers to inform the integration and application of intersectionality.

Conclusions. This review provides a better understanding of the current knowledge and practices of intersectionality within occupational therapy. This can help guide future initiatives that incorporate intersectionality within individual, organizational and systemic levels, to enhance OT's provision of care.

Unlocking Potential: Exploring Health Service Delivery for Children with Camptodactyly Through a Retrospective Cohort Study

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Introduction. Camptodactyly is a rare congenital condition characterized by permanent finger flexion contracture. Due to its rarity, Ontarian practitioners refer pediatric patients to The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) for treatment. However, residing outside the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) may limit patients' access to ongoing treatment, which may result in increased risk of contracture recurrence. This necessitates an understanding of how geographical location and availability of community-based occupational therapy (OT) services influence follow-up adherence in children with camptodactyly in Ontario.

Objectives. The objective of this study is to illustrate the relationship among geographical location of primary residence (i.e., Canada Census Divisions), availability of community rehabilitation services, and follow-up rates for children with camptodactyly receiving services at SickKids.

Methods. This study utilizes a retrospective cohort study design to capture the geographical location of primary residence of camptodactyly referrals. The "lost to follow up" rate of patients was identified using descriptive statistics and comparative analysis.

Results. This study informed the creation of a map of Children Treatment Centre's across Ontario relative to Census Divisions in which patients reside. Mapping both existing service locations as well as patients' primary residences illuminated geographic areas with a dearth of existing services and served to identify families at a greater risk of becoming lost to follow up.

Conclusion. Pediatric patients outside the GTA were significantly more likely to be lost to follow-up, demonstrating a need for enhanced partnerships and knowledge translation between OTs who have expertise in camptodactyly treatment and OTs who serve communities outside of the GTA.

Mapping pride in service: An environmental scan of organizations and programs that support sexual/gender diversity among military-connected families

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Introduction. Military-connected families experience unique lifestyle factors, such as mobility between military bases, absences of serving members, and increased risk for illness, injury, and/or death to the serving members. For military-connected families that include sexual/gender diverse members (i.e., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, plus other identities), there are intersecting factors that influence their wellbeing and access to support. Yet historically and to this present day, organizations and programs to support military-connected families have largely been developed without consideration of sexual/gender diversity.

Objectives. The objective of this research is to identify and describe organizations and programs that are currently available to support sexual/gender diversity among military-connected families. This research has demonstrated gaps that exist in supporting these families across the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Five Eyes military alliances.

Methods. Environmental scanning was employed to identify organizations and programs that are publicly available to support sexual/gender diversity among military-connected families from member countries of NATO and Five Eyes. Descriptive analysis of organizations and programs provided insight into the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the supports for sexual/gender diverse military-connected families.

Results. There is an unbalanced distribution of organizations and programs that support sexual/gender diversity among military-connected families across NATO and Five Eyes. The majority of existing organizations and programs primarily provide support for service members and Veterans, and not their family members.

Conclusions. This research highlights the importance of military-connections organizations conducting strategic planning and program development to support sexual/gender diversity among military-connected families in Canada and internationally.

A scoping review of public transit inequities across disabilities

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Introduction. Public transit is integral to enabling disabled people's mobility and access to employment, education, healthcare, and recreation. The literature intersecting public transit and disability is growing, but little attention has been given to understanding how transit access-related inequities differ across disabilities. This is problematic given disabled people are not a homogeneous population, and their varied transit experiences and requirements should be meaningfully incorporated into transit planning.

Objectives. The scoping review aims to investigate what is known about public transit access inequities occurring across disabilities.

Methods. This study employed Arksey and O'Malley's scoping review methodology. In total, 11,797 records were screened using inclusion and exclusion criteria, which led to the identification of 69 articles for review inclusion.

Results. This review has identified various public transit barriers and discusses them in relation to four themes: (1) Physical barriers, (2) Social barriers, (3) Information inaccessibility, and (4) Policy implementation. Analyses of how disability groups experience different barriers, and which disabilities are receiving scholarly attention, are underway.

Conclusion. This review highlights shared and unique transit experiences among disabled people. Findings will help public transit planners, policymakers, and service providers to identify and address overlooked disability groups, understand who is being impacted by specific barriers and how, and to allocate resources more effectively. Efforts to advance more inclusive and equitable public transit systems must go beyond addressing physical infrastructure issues by also confronting systemic, informational, and attitudinal barriers.

Engaging People with Developmental Disabilities in Community Research: A Scoping Review of Qualitative Methods Literature

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Introduction. Historically, individuals with developmental disabilities have been excluded from community research or engaged in tokenistic ways that limit agency. Recently, however, qualitative scholars have sought to meaningfully engage this population to understand their community experiences and preferences. To our knowledge, no scholars have systematically reviewed the qualitative methods literature to understand what it tells us about engaging people with developmental disabilities about their community experiences and preferences.

Objectives. This study engages the question: "What does the qualitative methods literature tell us about using qualitative methods to engage people with developmental disabilities to learn about their community experiences and preferences?" Our aim is to produce comprehensive foundational knowledge that will enhance future study designs.

Methods. This study used Arksey and O'Malley's scoping review approach. By searching six article databases, 42 articles were identified. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied to identify methods articles concerning developmental disability and community experiences.

Results. Forty-two articles covering various qualitative methods were reviewed. Three themes were identified: the relationships between researchers and participants (e.g., power dynamics and rapport), participant empowerment through inclusive research methods, and the sense of connectedness and community arising from participation.

Conclusions. Various qualitative methods can support meaningful engagement with individuals with developmental disabilities. Accessible and adapted methods that prioritize researcher-participant relationships and participant enablement help people with developmental disabilities to meaningfully contribute to knowledge production. These approaches enhance data quality, empower participants by recognizing their agency and viewpoints, and can help to challenge barriers that often limit their research participation.

The Use of Arts-Based Methods in the Design Process with Older Adults: A Scoping Review

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Introduction. As individuals age, they often need accommodations to products, services, and environments to support daily activities. However, these are not always designed with input from older adults (OAs), resulting in unmet needs. Traditional methods of engaging OAs in the design process often rely on verbal communication, which may not fully capture OA's lived experiences. Arts-based methods (ABMs), such as visual arts, storytelling, music, and digital media, offer creative alternatives for self-expression and participation in design processes.

Objectives. This scoping review aims to explore how ABMs have been used to engage older adults in designing products, services, and environments. It aims to consolidate the existing knowledge regarding the application of ABMs in the design process with OAs and identify gaps, trends, and opportunities for future research.

Methods. The review followed the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) guidelines and the PRISMA-P reporting framework. A comprehensive search strategy was developed in collaboration with a librarian and applied across multiple academic databases. Studies were screened using defined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Relevant data was extracted using a standardized form and analyzed through inductive thematic analysis.

Results. This review found that photovoice and forum theatre were the most common ABMs used to engage OAs in the design process, with their involvement greater in the early stages than in later ones.

Conclusion. This review contributes to the understanding of how ABMs can support the meaningful engagement of OAs in design. The findings may inform future practice, research, and training efforts aimed at promoting well-being, autonomy, and inclusion among older populations.

Virtual Palliative Care: A Scoping Review of Intervention Modalities for Adults and Caregivers in North America Using an Occupation-Focused Model

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Introduction. Evidence suggests an increased need for palliative care (PC) provision, with current resources being insufficient to support this demand. The COVID-19 pandemic altered access and provision, as virtual modalities of care were sought to ensure access to necessary services during this time; however, the current literature on virtual PC intervention modalities often neglects to include an occupation-focused lens.

Objectives. 1) Synthesize virtual PC in North America according to study and intervention characteristics; and 2) Map existing virtual PC interventions through an occupation-based model for PC by Yeh & McColl (2019)

Methods. This review was conducted following the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) methodology for scoping reviews. The following databases were searched: Embase, MEDLINE, CINAHL, Web of Science, PsycINFO, Cochrane, and PubMed.

Results. The search yielded a total of 6745 references with 59 meeting inclusion criteria. Most studies were published after 2020 in the US. Preliminary results indicate that current virtual modalities primarily utilize telephonic and videoconferencing technologies amongst adults over 65 receiving PC. The virtual PC approach minimally reflects the values of an occupation-based model for PC. For those that do, these values include the provision of a safe and supportive environment, as well as the importance of valued occupations in end-of-life care.

Conclusions. To be determined. Literature suggests there are benefits to virtual PC for both adult patients and caregivers. These interventions align well with an OT-based model for PC, testifying to the need for increased OT presence in this field.

A qualitative exploration of orthotics and prosthetics professionals' experiences learning to fabricate ankle-foot orthoses using digital technologies

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Introduction. Although the traditional method of AFO production is effective, the labour and time required for their fabrication results in significant costs for patients and funding agencies. An emerging method for AFO fabrication uses digital technology (DT), which offers an efficient and high-quality alternative. However, limited high-quality evidence exists about the adoption and fabrication of DT AFOs. Certified orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) professionals have started to implement DT workflows to fabricate and dispense AFOs. Their learning experiences offer valuable insights into the process of DT AFO fabrication and provision.

Objectives. This qualitative study aims to explore how O&P professionals experience learning to integrate digital technology into ankle-foot orthotic (AFO) fabrication.

Methods. Researchers examined data from semi-structured interviews conducted with orthotists, orthotic technicians and digital technologists. Thematic analysis methodology was used to identify common themes to understand the learning experience and best-practice integration of DT.

Results. This study offers valuable insights to shape practical strategies that ensure a streamlined and effective adoption of digital technology for clinicians working in O&P. Preliminary results of the study suggest that having a structured training program and strong organizational leadership are critical factors for successful integration, and that orthotists experience the greatest paradigm shift.

Conclusions. This is one of the first formal studies to explore O&P clinicians' learning experience with integrating digital technology in the workplace. This will provide a greater understanding of factors that may expedite and hinder implementation of the technology to help other O&P workplaces interested in adopting new workflows with technology.

Exploring participation in winter leisure activities of newcomer South Asians in Canada

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Introduction. Leisure occupations are an integral part of every culture. In Canada, winter leisure occupations hold profound significance due to their association with Canadian culture and identity. However, newcomers to Canada hesitate to participate in leisure occupations due to the challenges they experience in adapting to Canadian society while maintaining their participation. Additionally, most newcomers to Canada emigrate from South Asian countries, such as India and Pakistan, where winter occupations are not practiced at all. Currently, little is known about the experiences of South Asian newcomers to Canada in participating in winter leisure occupations.

Objectives. This study aims to explore the experiences of South Asian newcomers to Canada in accessing, initiating, and sustaining participation in winter leisure occupations.

Methods. A co-constructivist paradigm using qualitative methods will be used to facilitate the collection of the experiences of South Asian newcomers to Canada with participation in winter leisure occupations. Participants will complete one virtual semi-structured interview, using images or artifacts to guide their storytelling. Transcribed interviews will be analyzed using Braun and Clarke's (2019) 6-phase reflexive thematic analysis.

Results. We project that the findings will highlight that knowledge about leisure occupations, experience in the winter environment, and cultural and systemic factors shape winter leisure participation of South Asian newcomers to Canada.

Conclusions. The findings will inform the creation of cultural and systemic resources that positively shape the participation of South Asian immigrants in winter leisure occupations in Canada, facilitating social inclusion.

Abstracts for Session 3

The Impact of Rapid Palatal Expanders on Children with Cleft Lip and Palate: A Longitudinal Quantitative Study of Nasality and Consonant Articulation Errors

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Introduction. Children with Cleft Lip and Palate (CLP) often require Rapid Palatal Expansion (RPE) to address maxillary constriction. While effective for structural correction, RPE devices may temporarily affect speech by limiting tongue-to-palate contact.

Objectives. The objective of this study is to examine the impact of fan-type RPE's on speech nasality and articulation errors in children with CLP throughout their treatment.

Methods. This longitudinal quantitative study analyzed audio recordings from 36 peadiatric patients with CLP treated at The Hospital for Sick Children. Participants were recorded at six different timepoints throughout their RPE treatment using a Nasometer headset, while repeating a standardized sentence targeting the /d/ and /t/ consonants. Speech samples were evaluated using a modified version of the GOS.SP.ASS 98' categories to assess speech changes over the course of treatment.

Results. Articulation accuracy declined immediately following RPE insertion, followed by a gradual return to baseline over the treatment period. A slight decrease in accuracy was observed at the final follow-up after secondary alveolar bone grafting. The most common articulation errors produced on both the /d/ and /t/ sounds were palatalization, underarticulation, and lenisation. For some patients, the occurrences of nasal turbulence increased steadily throughout the treatment and were most prevalent when /d/ and /t/ consonants occurred in direct succession.

Conclusions. This study contributes to the understanding of how fan-type RPEs affect the production of alveolar plosives in children with CLP. The findings can be used by orthodontists to counsel families about possible treatment-related changes to speech and to improve treatment acceptance.

Clinician experiences with using a newly integrated social determinants screening tool in pediatric rehabilitation

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Introduction. Social determinants of health (SDoH) significantly impact the health, function, and well-being of children, and can influence health care outcomes. While there is a shift towards screening for social needs in health care settings, there is limited literature describing processes for identifying and addressing social needs within pediatric rehabilitation contexts. Holland Bloorview Kids Hospital has implemented a novel Social Needs Screening (SNS) program, where clinicians screen for SDoH and connect clients and families to resources that address their specific social needs. This initiative aims to reduce health equity gaps for clients and families, which is key to delivering high-quality and meaningful care.

Objective. The purpose of the study is to understand clinicians' experiences with screening for SDoH in a pediatric rehabilitation setting.

Methods. This qualitative study analyzes data from two virtual focus groups (60-90 minutes each) with seven clinicians who have used the SNS tool in their practice at Holland Bloorview. Data was analyzed using Braun and Clarke's (2019) reflexive thematic analysis.

Results. Thematic analysis of focus groups revealed four emerging themes: 1) Value in screening for SDoH; 2) Barriers to screening and addressing unmet social needs; 3) Minimizing unintentional harm; 4) Navigating forward within a complex system.

Conclusions. This study contributes to growing literature on clinicians' experiences of screening for social needs in a pediatric rehabilitation context. The findings inform future practice of screening for social needs, both within Holland Bloorview and other pediatric rehabilitation hospitals looking to improve quality of care by addressing social needs.

What Matters to Youth? Goal-Setting and Interdisciplinary Care in Persistent Post-Concussion Symptom (PPCS) Recovery

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Introduction. Persistent Post-Concussion Symptoms (PPCS) can impact many areas of youth's functioning. The Persistent Concussion Clinic (PPC) at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (HBKRH) provides interdisciplinary services for youth experiencing PPCS. To inform the PPCS care approach, there is a need to understand the goals set collaboratively between youth, their families, and the interdisciplinary team.

Objectives. This study aimed to categorize youth's PPCS recovery goals and determine the goals' distribution across diverse categories. The study's objective was to better understand youth's recovery priorities.

Methods. A retrospective chart review was conducted with 106 youth who participated in the team assessment pathway at the PPC at HBKRH in Toronto, Canada. Goals were extracted and categorized using an iterative approach.

Results. A total of 674 goals were coded across nine primary categories: School (132 goals; 19.6%), physical focus (128 goals; 19.0%), emotional/mental health (128 goals; 19.0%), cognitive health (86 goals; 12.8%), daily activities (57 goals; 8.5%), leisure (54 goals; 8%), connecting with community/private supports (50 goals; 7.4%), social health (20 goals; 3.0%), and other (19 goals; 2.8%).

Conclusion. School-related goals were most frequently reported, highlighting academics as a priority occupation of youth with PPCS. The complex needs of youth with PPCS was evident through the frequent articulation of goals involving ongoing interdisciplinary community support. These findings can inform clinicians' understanding of the goals meaningful to youth during PPCS recovery, and highlight the importance of an interdisciplinary and client-centred approach to care.

Exploring the capability, opportunity, and motivation of school staff in providing quality participation in active play for children with disabilities

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Introduction. Active play offers critical health benefits, yet children with disabilities often face participation barriers. School staff, especially teachers are uniquely positioned to support inclusive and meaningful participation in active play; however, it is unclear whether they are well equipped to facilitate quality participation for students with disabilities.

Objectives. This study aimed to explore the current state of capabilities, opportunities, and motivation (COM-B) of school staff to provide quality experiences in active play among children with disabilities in grades K-12.

Methods. A survey including both closed-ended and open-ended questions was completed by school staff working in K-12 schools across Canada. Descriptive analysis was used to summarize the active play opportunities and COM-B components. T-tests and Chi-squared analyses examined differences between elementary and secondary staff.

Results. A total of 158 school staff participated in the study, and 39 completed the full survey. Elementary school staff reported significantly more outdoor recess than secondary students ($p < 0.001$), but classroom play time and participation ratings were similar across school levels. Elementary staff also reported higher psychological capability and slightly higher opportunity to support active play. Motivation levels were high across both groups. Key barriers included limited adaptive equipment, limited staffing, and limited professional development. Open-ended responses emphasized training needs, and the importance of policies to enhance active play opportunities for students with disabilities.

Conclusion. Findings highlight the need for increased training, resources, and policy support to strengthen school staff's capabilities and opportunities in facilitating quality participation in active play for students with disabilities.

Person and Family Centered Care for Long COVID: A Qualitative Study

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Introduction: Long COVID (LC) is a multisystem condition affecting 10-39% of COVID-19 survivors. Adults with LC (AwLC) face diagnostic delays, inadequate treatment, and medical gaslighting, leading to negative healthcare experiences. AwLC caregivers experience stress and burnout due to unpredictable symptoms and care demands. Healthcare providers (HCPs) struggle with limited LC knowledge, causing care delays and reduced patient trust. Person- and Family-Centered Care (PFCC) aims to address these challenges by prioritizing collaboration, emphasizing stakeholders' needs, preferences, and contexts.

Objectives: To explore the experiences and preferences of AwLC, caregivers, and HCPs regarding PFCC in the context of LC.

Methods: This qualitative descriptive study used virtual, semi-structured interviews with AwLC (n = 3), caregivers (n = 3), and HCPs (n = 3). Participants were recruited through online support groups, LC networks, and snowball sampling. Interviews explored care planning, family and HCP collaboration, family contexts influencing care, supportive policies and procedures, educational needs, and care coordination strategies. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

Results: Data analysis produced six themes: limited collaboration across care teams, self-initiated education by AwLC and families, absence of formal care planning, underdeveloped evidence-informed policies for AwLC safety, diverse and complex family contexts, and the profound impact of LC on AwLC, their families, and HCPs.

Conclusion: This study highlights the disconnect between PFCC values and the lived realities of LC. Occupational therapists can use strategies to strengthen PFCC including empathy-driven care, improved LC education, collaboration amongst stakeholders, and family-inclusive care planning. Study results will inform a PFCC model to better support those affected by LC.

Culturally-Adapted Stroke Prevention and Awareness Strategies Implemented in High-Income Countries: a Scoping Review of Current Literature

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Introduction. There is an increasing burden of the absolute number of stroke prevalence and stroke mortality in high-income countries. Culturally-adapted stroke prevention and awareness strategies have been proposed as a potential means to improve stroke health outcomes for diverse populations. Understanding existing literature on culturally-adapted stroke prevention and awareness strategies, can inform future research and subsequent health care practices through an equitable and inclusive lens, optimizing health outcomes for the totality of the population.

Objectives. To review existing literature on culturally-adapted stroke prevention and awareness strategies implemented in high-income countries. This review also seeks to identify characteristics of both study and strategy implementation.

Methods. A review team carried out a scoping review on culturally-adapted stroke prevention and awareness studies conducted from 2014 - 2024, based on JBI methodology. A total of three databases were searched (MEDLINE, CINAHL, APA PsycInfo), preceding two independent reviewers double screening articles. The TIDIER framework was utilized for data extraction, with data analysis represented by frequency counts and descriptive statistics.

Results. 56 articles were included, representing 40 study sets, and 46 strategies. The majority of studies were conducted in the United States, and 21 studies used a randomized control trial (RCT) design. Strategies were most commonly conducted individually (45.7%), in multiple locations (52.2%), used multiple forms of communication in delivery (67.4%), and were 0 - 3 months in duration (39.1%).

Conclusions. This review synthesizes current literature on culturally-adapted stroke prevention and awareness strategies, contributing to the healthcare field by informing future research initiatives.

Menopause and Occupational Transitions in the Context of Caregiving: A Qualitative Exploration

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Introduction: The menopausal transition often brings significant physical and psychological changes, which can be intensified for caregivers, affecting their quality of life and well-being. In Canada, a significant number of caregivers are between the ages of 45–64, many of whom are also navigating the menopausal transition. Consequently, there is a need to explore the intersection of menopause and caregiving to better understand how occupational therapists (OT) can support this population.

Objective: The objective of this study is to explore how the menopausal transition affects the daily lives of caregivers, including their caregiving responsibilities and other occupations.

Methods: This study utilized a qualitative descriptive design and was guided by the Person-Environment-Occupation model. Data were collected through a demographic survey and semi-structured virtual interviews with 6 participants between January 2025 and June 2025. Participants were recruited from various organizations across Canada using maximum variation purposive and snowball sampling. Codebook thematic analysis was used to analyze the interview transcripts.

Results: Early stages of data analysis indicate emergent themes such as occupational disruptions, impact on mental health, and limited support from healthcare professionals.

Conclusions: This study highlights the impacts that the menopausal transition can have on caregivers' daily lives, including their occupations. The findings can inform a more fulsome understanding of the menopausal transition within the OT profession, as well as support the development of relevant OT interventions for this population.

Prehabilitation interventions to support post-operative recovery in adult kidney transplant candidates: a scoping review

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Introduction: Kidney transplantation typically offers superior health outcomes than other renal replacement therapies for people with kidney failure. However, kidney transplant recipients still often experience residual complications of kidney failure after transplant. Prehabilitation has been proposed to improve post-transplant outcomes, but it is unclear to what extent prehabilitation interventions have been studied to support postoperative recovery in adult kidney transplant candidates (KTC).

Objective: To identify and describe prehabilitation interventions that have been studied in adult KTC.

Methods: This scoping review followed the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) methodology. Five electronic databases were searched. All articles reporting on prehabilitation interventions (i.e. preoperative interventions providing exercise, nutritional, cognitive, psychosocial, and/or educational support) in KTC were included in the review. Title and abstract screening were conducted independently by two researchers after initial inter-rater calibration, and full text screening and data extraction were performed in duplicate. Data analysis was completed using descriptive statistics and narrative synthesis.

Results: Eight studies were included in the review. Prehabilitation interventions for KTC consisted of psychosocial (n=3), educational (n=2), physical training (n=2), and multimodal (n=1) support. 38 outcomes were assessed across the eight studies, including patient satisfaction and feasibility of the interventions, transplant knowledge, length of post-operative hospital stay, negative emotions, and physical functioning.

Conclusions: This scoping review highlights a lack of research into prehabilitation interventions for KTC and a need for further research to support the development of comprehensive prehabilitation protocols for KTC.

Disabled Students' School Transportation Transitions in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area

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Introduction: Accessible student transportation services are essential to disabled students; however, they regularly face barriers when trying to use these services. Common barriers include bus delays and cancellations, long bus trips without peer interaction, and inadequate driver training. Such issues can reduce attendance and class participation, and negatively impact educational experiences.

Objectives: This paper aims to share how disabled students experience different aspects of their school journeys in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) by examining the perspectives of disabled students, their families, and school staff.

Methods: A qualitative analysis of data from interviews with disabled students, their families, and school staff was conducted. This analysis was informed by a biopsychosocial model of disability and also drew upon a critical disability studies perspective. The analysis was focused on three school journey micro-environments: (1) Boarding the school bus, (2) Riding the school bus, and (3) Disembarking the school bus.

Results: Several common barriers are negatively impacting disabled students' school travel transitions and general school travel experiences. They include inadequately trained drivers, limited peer interaction opportunities, various environmental obstacles, and disabled students and their families not being involved in student transportation planning.

Conclusion: This study offers insight into systemic barriers facing disabled students during school journeys. Findings indicate a need to involve disabled students and their families in student transportation planning processes to enhance service delivery. Incorporating their input, along with expertise from occupational therapists, could help to prevent barriers and advance more equitable and inclusive school journeys for disabled students.

Exploring the Experiences of Residents with Developmental Disabilities During Transitions into Intentional Community Residences

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Introduction: Transitioning into supportive housing represents a major life change for people with developmental disabilities (PwDD). Intentional community residences (ICRs), an increasingly popular form of supportive housing, provide a structured living environment complete with staff support and programming. For PwDD, having suitable housing impacts their independence, community participation, and access to support services.

Objective: This paper aims to describe and provide insight into the ICR move-in experiences of PwDD and their families to help advance understanding of move-in barriers, preferences of PwDD, and practices for enhancing move-in experiences.

Methods: This study used a qualitative methodology involving semi-structured interviews with PwDD living in ICRs and their family members. The study drew upon ethnographic thinking to support rich description and understanding of PWDD's move-in experiences.

Results: Twenty-eight PwDD and eleven family members were interviewed. Results are presented in relation to three themes: (1) Move-In Barriers, (2) Move-In Enablers, and (3) Engaging Resident Perspectives.

Conclusion: This study advances understanding of ICR move-in experiences for PwDD and their families. Transitions into ICRs increased feelings of independence, comfort, and safety among PwDD. Transitions are most successful when supports are coordinated, flexible, and person-centred. Inadequate preparation, limited resident involvement in move-in processes, and inflexible policies hindered transition processes and prolonged adjustment periods. Developing more individualized and flexible transition supports could help PwDD to thrive in ICRs. Further, engaging PwDD perspectives on ICR designs and operations could improve support programs and services and enhance PwDD experiences of community inclusion.

The Effects of Sex and Gender on Clinical and Functional Outcomes: A Systematic Review

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Introduction. Biological sex and sociocultural gender can have independent and combined influences on health outcomes. Despite growing recognition of their relevance to health research, associations of sex and gender attributes with clinical and functional outcomes have not been systematically reviewed.

Objectives. We aimed to critically evaluate the existing evidence on how sex and gender effects were captured in health research in adults, and whether these attributes associate with clinical and functional outcomes.

Methods. We searched Medline, Embase, CINAHL, and Web of Science from inception to November 20, 2023, and included primary research that used standardized measurements to capture sex or gender effects on clinical or functional outcomes in adults. We critically appraised each included study using published guidelines, extracted relevant data, and synthesized data through tabulation and descriptive statistics. We stratified results by sex and gender attribute and the relevant outcome.

Results. Our searches identified 12,964 unique records, of which 27 studies met the inclusion and quality criteria for data synthesis. These studies used seven measures, six capturing attributes of gender and one capturing attributes of sex. Frequently studied clinical outcomes included mental health and endocrine/metabolic conditions, and the most frequent functional outcome was alcohol consumption. Future steps include assessment of certainty and precision of effect sizes in the associations of sex and gender with outcomes.

Conclusions. The preliminary results highlight the need for systematic integration of sex- and gender-based analyses into health research. Understanding the effects of sex and gender is essential for advancing equitable, person-centred, and evidence-informed healthcare.

Occupational therapy mentors' professional identity evolution: Perspectives on longitudinal mentorship

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Introduction: The construction of professional identity (PI) is essential for occupational therapists (OTs) as it equips them with the personal and professional tools necessary to uphold the core values of the OT profession. Mentorship programs in health professions' education offer collaborative learning and opportunities for reflexivity, which can assist students in developing their PI. Although mentorship's benefits for students' professional identity are well-documented, its specific impact on the development of mentors' professional identity has limited research.

Objective: This study examines how mentoring MScOT students in a longitudinal, small-group mentorship course influences the PI and professional evolution of OT mentors.

Methods: A cross-sectional, sequential mixed-methods design was employed, combining surveys and interviews to gather both quantitative and qualitative data from mentors involved in a Canadian University MScOT mentorship course. Two members of the research team conducted independent thematic analyses of the data, followed by a collaborative cross-referencing process to identify and consolidate emergent themes.

Results: Our analysis found the following four themes: 1) reflection and reflexivity, 2) reciprocal sharing of knowledge and experiences, 3) staying up to date on OT knowledge and roles, and 4) the cultivation and application of leadership skills.

Conclusions: This research highlights mentorship as a valuable contributor to the PI development of OT mentors, promoting reflection, enhancing their leadership skills, and reaffirming core professional values. These findings emphasize mentorship's dual benefit, supporting both mentors and mentees in their growth within the OT profession.

Exploring artificial intelligence utilization by occupational therapy students

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Background. Artificial intelligence (AI) is generally defined as advanced technology that enables simulation of human intelligence via machines and computer systems. Given the emerging use of AI in health care, many health professional education programs are exploring how to address AI in their curricula. However, there is a lack of literature that explores AI utilization by Canadian occupational therapy (OT) students.

Objective. The objective of this study is to explore how OT students across Canada are currently using AI in their academic and fieldwork education.

Methods. An exploratory qualitative descriptive design was used. Twelve OT students from programs across Canada participated in semi-structured interviews. Data was analyzed using conventional content analysis to identify patterns and insights related to participants' use of AI.

Results. Two main themes emerged 1) "I use [AI] to get the ball rolling," which reflects how students use AI for efficiency, course content navigation, and organization; 2) "It's not good or bad, it's hard to say," which reflects that student's see AI's potential, but experience hesitancy with accuracy, over-reliance, limited knowledge, lack of human qualities, and academic misconduct.

Conclusion. OT students are currently integrating AI into their academic routines with openness and caution, highlighting the need for AI literacy and guidance within OT education.

Enabling education: Evaluating the accessibility and usability of a concussion education web portal for Canadian youth athletes

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Introduction. Concussions are a prevalent brain injury among Canadian youth athletes. However, access to targeted, age-appropriate, and accessible educational resources remains limited. As digital health tools evolve, web portals offer a promising platform for delivering accessible health information.

Objectives. This study evaluated the usability and accessibility of a concussion education web portal designed for Canadian youth athletes. The study aimed to actively involve youth from an Athlete Design Team in evaluating the portal and providing targeted feedback to inform its ongoing development.

Methods. A mixed-methods design was used. Nine youth athletes participated in focus groups and completed the System Usability Scale (SUS). Focus groups explored experiences with the portal's design and accessibility. SUS scores provided quantitative usability data. Qualitative data were analyzed using deductive content analysis, and quantitative data were summarized using descriptive statistics. An OT lens guided evaluation of the portal's alignment with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards.

Results. Findings demonstrated strong youth engagement and satisfaction. Analysis identified three key themes: (1) Ease of use; (2) Youth-friendly design; and (3) Opportunities for refinement. The mean SUS score was 87.81 (SD = 6.30), indicating excellent usability. The portal's design aligns with AODA accessibility standards to support its use.

Conclusions. This study supports the web portal's potential as an effective, youth-centred concussion education tool. It highlights the valuable role of occupational therapists in shaping accessible, user-friendly digital health education and emphasizes the importance of incorporating youth perspectives in the evaluation and refinement of health technology development.

Evaluating Inter-Rater Reliability of the Universal Assessment of Learning Process for Brain-Computer Interface Use in Children with Physical and Developmental Disabilities: A Study Protocol

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Introduction. There is a lack of research that examines how children with developmental and physical disabilities learn to use a brain-computer interface (BCI). A strong research base is essential for developing evidence-based practice. One study suggests that neurotypical children are capable of learning to use a BCI, but no studies provide insight into the learning process. An inter-rater reliability study can assess whether the Universal Assessment of Learning Process (U-ALP) tool can determine a child's learning phase within the learning process.

Objectives. This protocol aims to assess inter-rater reliability of the U-ALP among clinicians working with children who have physical and developmental disabilities using a BCI. It will also examine the effectiveness of clinician U-ALP training materials for BCI use through feedback.

Methods. The protocol details the development of training materials and future study design. It includes creating a filming protocol, recruiting children and OTs, extracting video clips, U-ALP ratings, training OTs, and evaluating the videos. Inter-rater reliability will be assessed using weighted kappa, and a thematic analysis of feedback forms will examine training effectiveness.

Results. This study will result in a detailed protocol for assessing the inter-rater reliability of the U-ALP for a BCI. The protocol will guide the future study design, data collection, and analysis over the next two years following REB approval.

Conclusions. If the U-ALP depicts high inter-rater reliability, it can help OTs understand a child's learning phase. This study will contribute to the research base needed to establish best practices for using a BCI.

Exploring the Therapeutic Experiences of Photovoice for People with Disabilities: A Scoping Review

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Introduction: Photovoice is a participatory visual methodology, typically used within qualitative research. Photovoice is used within the literature to empower vulnerable groups to capture, communicate, reflect and advocate their lived experiences. There is a need to explore the therapeutic values of engaging in photovoice for participants, and whether these benefits can be applied within an occupational therapy intervention.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to collect and analyze literature about the reported therapeutic experiences of engaging in photovoice for people with disabilities. This study also seeks to understand the breadth of photovoice use and the potential to utilize photovoice as an intervention within occupational therapy practice.

Methods: A scoping review was conducted by searching four databases, including MedLine, CINAHL, Scopus, and PSYCinfo. The search revealed 2,229 studies, which were independently screened by two reviewers.

Results: Twenty articles met inclusion criteria and were considered for the final review. Themes were extracted using a basic qualitative content analysis. The results revealed various therapeutic benefits to engaging in photovoice for people with disabilities. The reported experiences fell into four domains: self-reflection, empowerment, socialization & connections, and communication.

Conclusions: This study provides a deeper understanding of the therapeutic experiences when engaging in photovoice for people with disabilities. Photovoice's therapeutic properties, including promoting confidence, self-reflection & advocacy, building connections and accessible communication, align with occupational therapy intervention properties. Researchers and clinicians can leverage these findings to promote further opportunities to engage in photovoice within a clinical setting.

Understanding the role of occupational therapy in the care of older adults living with HIV

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Introduction. Advancements in HIV treatment have improved life expectancy, resulting in a growing population of older adults living with HIV faced with complex health and social challenges. Occupational therapists (OTs) are well positioned to address the needs of this population given their expertise in holistic care and promoting function. However, their role remains underexplored.

Objectives. The objective of this study is to (1) describe the existing literature on OT practice with older adults living with HIV, (2) map OT roles and functions to the 2021 Essential Competencies for Occupational Therapists in Canada, and (3) highlight implications for research, policy and practice.

Methods. This study consists of a scoping review of the literature published on the role of OTs in the care of older adults living with HIV using the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology for evidence synthesis.

Results. Five peer-reviewed studies met the inclusion criteria. Thematic analysis found that OT roles aligned with five of the six national competency domains; however, OT contributions remain underexamined in the literature.

Conclusions. This study highlights the need to further articulate OT roles in the care of older adults living with HIV. The review findings are discussed in terms of implications for future research, practice, and policy to strengthen OT services for this population.

Participation in Stroke Rehabilitation

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Instruction**:** Participation is a key outcome in stroke rehabilitation and a vital determinant of long-term health and quality of life. However, its definitions remain inconsistent, limiting comparability across studies and impeding the design of effective, participation-focused interventions.

Objective**:** To identify, compare and contrast concepts of participation defined and conceptualized in stroke rehabilitation literature, particularly among community-dwelling stroke survivors.

Methods**:** An interpretative review was conducted across six databases—MEDLINE, CINAHL, OTSeeker, PubMed, Scopus, and EMBASE—for peer-reviewed articles published between 2010 and 2024. Included studies focused on community-dwelling adults with stroke and explicitly addressed the definition and conceptualization of participation. Key data were extracted on study characteristics, conceptual frameworks, and measurement tools.

Results**:** Thirty-seven studies were included, revealing a complex and overlapping set of conceptualizations. Social participation (n=28), community integration (n=9), biosocial participation (n=11), and daily function/role resumption (n=22) were the most common themes. Other perspectives included enfranchisement (n=4), client-defined participation (n=3), and cognitive-linked participation (n=4). The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) was frequently cited (n=33), though inconsistently applied and often criticized for failing to differentiate activity from participation or account for cultural and contextual factors. Quantitative studies prioritized frequency-based metrics using standardized tools, while qualitative studies (n=3) emphasized personal meaning, identity, and sociocultural influences.

Conclusion: Participation in stroke rehabilitation is a multidimensional, context-dependent construct. Clearer definitions and more holistic, culturally sensitive measurement tools are essential to align rehabilitation practices with the lived realities of stroke survivors.

Clinical Reasoning and Person-Environment-Occupation Considerations in Community Occupational Therapist Bathroom Modifications

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Introduction. Community occupational therapists (OTs) are often involved in the creation of safe bathroom environments for community-dwelling clients wishing to age in place. However, there is limited understanding of specific clinical reasoning strategies and context-specific considerations shared amongst community OTs recommending bathroom modifications.

Objectives. This study aimed to understand clinical reasoning strategies that guide bathroom modification recommendations of community OTs. We also aimed to identify person, environment, and occupation-based (PEO) factors that guide recommendations of universal or customized bathroom modifications.

Methods. Five Canadian community OTs documented bathroom modification recommendations for 10 clients, via online surveys (REDCap). Semi-structured virtual interviews were conducted following survey completion. Surveys were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Transcribed interviews were analyzed through deductive content analysis to identify clinical reasoning strategies and common PEO considerations.

Results . Nine global clinical reasoning strategies used by community OTs were identified, including referral review, subjective interviewing, task observation, and training/mentorship. An additional 16 contextual considerations were organized into three domains: person (five subthemes), environment (eight subthemes), and occupation (three subthemes). Universally supportive recommendations were consistently customized by participants based on PEO considerations, particularly bathroom layouts and materials, client preferences and routines, finances, and rental properties, to support client uptake of modifications.

Conclusions. Community OTs use a combination of global clinical reasoning strategies and PEO considerations when recommending bathroom modifications. Findings underscore the valuable role of community OTs in creating bathroom environments that promote client independence and safety. Findings may influence developments in universal bathroom design informed by community OT clinical reasoning.

“Everyone is hanging by a thread”: Exploring how interdisciplinary teams can support the mealtime needs of persons with dementia and their care partners

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Introduction: Meaningful participation in mealtimes can become a significant challenge among community-living persons with dementia (PwD) and their care partners (CP). Interdisciplinary teams play an important role in detecting difficulties faced by PwD-CP dyads and providing advice on managing these problems at home. However, interdisciplinary interventions specifically designed to improve the mealtime experience in the community setting are lacking.

Objectives: The objectives of this study were to 1) understand the unmet needs of PwD-CP dyads during mealtime activities, and 2) explore how clinicians currently address these needs, and the challenges they experience in implementing best care for mealtime-related issues.

Methods: Sixteen clinicians (4 speech language pathologists, 5 dietitians, 5 occupational therapists, and 2 nurses) who work with community-living dyads participated in two focus groups. An inductive thematic analysis was conducted following Braun and Clark’s approach.

Results: Four themes were generated: (1) *eating and mealtime concerns in home-based dementia care* (e.g., responsive behaviours, CP burnout); (2) *emphasizing a process of client-centered care* (e.g., individualized needs, preferences and priorities inform care); (3) *applying therapeutic approaches for sustainable implementation by dyads* (e.g., building CP knowledge and skills, environmental modifications); and (4) *working towards the ideal in a fragmented home care system* (e.g., streamlining care recommendations by improving communication between providers).

Conclusion: Clinicians strive to deliver client-centered care to empower PwD-CP dyads to manage mealtime-related challenges, despite limitations of the current home care system. Findings will inform the development of a community-based interdisciplinary intervention to support meaningful and safe mealtime engagement.

Abstracts for Session 4

Exploring the roles of allied health professionals in neurosurgical discharge planning: A scoping review

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Introduction: Neurosurgery is a unique area of acute care that is often associated with challenging and complex discharges. Currently, there are no clear guidelines that direct allied health professionals on best practices for supporting these patient populations in preparing for the transition from hospital to home.

Objective: The objective of this scoping review is to examine the extent and nature of the literature surrounding discharge planning practices of allied health professionals in acute care neurosurgical settings.

Methods: A search was conducted on four electronic databases for articles published between January 2000 to November 2024. Keywords pertaining to neurosurgery, discharge planning, and allied health professionals, namely occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists, were searched. In consultation with two senior authors, two reviewers screened articles, extracted data, and analyzed themes.

Results: 3058 records were initially identified, with 18 included for final review after exclusions. Most studies were observational in nature. Common roles allied health professionals play in the discharge planning of this population include early and ongoing assessments, patient and family education, and communication and collaboration with interdisciplinary teams. Results also demonstrate gaps in the literature. Specifically, there is a marked lack of role clarification, along with no clear, consistent definitions and standards for discharge planning.

Conclusions: These results provide a foundation for the development of discharge planning resources for allied health professionals working with neurosurgical patients. Future research, including cross-sectional exploratory survey methodology, should aim to define and describe discharge planning tasks and procedures completed by allied health professionals.

Exploring Struggle and Failure in Clinical Learning: A Scoping Review of Educators and Students in Allied Health Professions

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Introduction: Struggle and failure in clinical learning can be common experiences for students in rehabilitation professions, often impacting learning outcomes and professional development. However, these concepts remain inconsistently defined in the literature compared to fields like medicine and nursing.

Objectives: This study aims to examine how struggle and failure are defined in clinical learning literature for rehabilitation professions, specifically Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech-Language Pathology. The main objective is to determine whether definitions of failure are provided, and whether these definitions are original or cited from other sources.

Methods: A scoping review was conducted using the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology. Literature searches were performed in the PubMed, CINAL, PsycINFO and Medline, and articles were screened using pre-established inclusion/exclusion criteria. Eligible studies included educators and students in rehabilitation clinical settings.

Results: From an initial 3448 papers screened, 26 were included. Each paper was assessed for the presence of definitions of failure and whether they were original or cited from other literature. The number and frequency of distinct terms used to describe failure were also recorded. At this time, the results are preliminary, and full synthesis and analysis are ongoing.

Conclusions: This scoping review highlights the need for consistent definitions of struggle and failure in clinical education within rehabilitation professions. Final results will establish clearer standards and help identify commonly used terms, informing future research and supporting educators and students in promoting success and creating more supportive environments.

Impact of retirement on professional dancers' well-being: A scoping review

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Introduction. Occupational therapists play an essential role in supporting transitions given their expertise in meaningful activities and the interplay between skills, contexts, and client factors. This is particularly relevant to professional dancers who face unique stressors during their careers, contributing to challenging retirement transitions. To our knowledge, no studies comprehensively synthesize the current literature regarding the impact of retirement on professional dancers' well-being.

Objectives. This review aims to map the literature to determine what is known about the impact of retirement from dance, and to identify gaps in this area. This study also seeks to determine how occupational therapists can support these dancers.

Methods. The Joanna Briggs Institute scoping review framework was followed. Six electronic databases (CINAHL, Embase, Medline, PsychInfo, Sociological Abstracts, SPORTDiscus) were searched from 1987 to 2022. Articles were included if the study population was professional dancers, and the context addressed retirement from dance.

Results. The initial search identified 1238 articles, with 17 final articles meeting inclusion criteria. Of the 17 articles, 10 discussed psychological impacts, 9 reported physical impacts, and 6 highlighted other lifestyle impacts of the retirement transition. Findings suggest that retiring dancers often struggle with identity loss, increased musculoskeletal pain, and career transition difficulties.

Conclusions. Retiring dancers experience an array of challenges in relation to psychological, physical, and lifestyle factors, yet there is limited peer-reviewed literature that exists on the topic. Future research should continue to explore the unique experiences faced during this transition and begin establishing effective intervention strategies to support this population.

Evaluation of a Cognitive Adaptation Training Education Program for Healthcare Clinicians: A Quality Improvement Study

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Introduction. Cognitive Adaptation Training (CAT) is one of the few evidence-based interventions targeting cognitive symptoms in individuals with schizophrenia spectrum disorders. Despite its demonstrated effectiveness, patient access to CAT remains limited. CAMH developed a training program to educate frontline clinicians in delivering and integrating CAT into clinical practice. A gap remains between clinician education, consistent implementation, and access to CAT services, highlighting the need to better understand the factors influencing translation of CAT into practice.

Objectives. This study aims to evaluate the impact of CAMH's CAT training program on changing clinicians' attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge of CAT and explore perception of the educations' quality and utility. From these findings, the study will identify facilitators and barriers to CAT implementation in clinical practice at CAMH.

Methods. 413 clinicians from CAMH's complex care and recovery unit who participated in CAT education training completed surveys before, after, and at six-month follow-up. Quantitative data was analyzed using inferential statistics to assess changes in attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge of CAT across demographics. Qualitative comments on participants' experiences were collected and analyzed using content analysis.

Results. The results of this study can inform the further development of CAT education at CAMH and guide institutions implementing similar educational modules.

Conclusion. This study can evaluate the current effectiveness and participant experience of the CAT education module to identify barriers and facilitators that impact CAT implementation at CAMH. Findings can further guide the development of CAT education to enhance integration into practice, with potential to inform similar initiatives elsewhere.

Clinical Perceptions of a Site-Specific Multiple Errands Test for Schizophrenia

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Introduction. Individuals with Schizophrenia Spectrum Diagnoses (SSD) often exhibit deficits in executive functioning (EF) that impact daily functioning. The Big Store Multiple Errands Test (BS-MET) is an evidence-based ecological assessment of EF that has yet to be formally implemented for individuals with SSD. At the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), a site-specific version of the MET (SS-MET) was developed to address contextual factors for inpatient clients. This study explores how occupational therapists (OTs) and clients perceive the clinical utility and implementation of both the BS-MET and SS-MET.

Objective. To evaluate and compare the clinical utility and inter-rater reliability of the SS-MET and BS-MET with individuals with SSD.

Methods. A multi-method design was used to evaluate both assessments. Cohen's Kappa was used to assess inter-rater reliability (IRR) and surveys were used to collect utility ratings and participant perspectives. Thematic analysis was used to explore qualitative responses.

Results. Both assessments demonstrated strong IRR. Thematic analysis revealed that OTs found both METs clinically useful for evaluating real-world EF and informing discharge planning. The SS-MET was preferred due to proximity and client familiarity, while the BS-MET was valued for its complexity. Barriers included unclear instructions and lack of formal recognition for housing applications. Clients expressed that the assessments supported independence and readiness for discharge.

Conclusion. Both the BS-MET and SS-MET are perceived as useful, practical tools for assessing EF in SSD populations. Findings highlight the need for further validation of METs for SSD and greater recognition of their role in community reintegration.

Examining racial trauma in Black narratives of traumatic brain injury rehabilitation

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Introduction: Traumatic brain injury (TBI) disproportionately affects Black people and persists throughout the life course, impacting physical and mental health, independent functioning, and participation in society. Although racism has recently been recognized as a key contributor to racial health disparities in rehabilitation care and outcomes, the emotional and psychological impact of these experiences are often overlooked under a collective narrative that neglects race and the unique challenges posed by racial trauma.

Objectives: The study aims to address this gap by centering the narratives of Black survivors of TBI, their family caregivers, and rehabilitation providers to examine how racial trauma manifests in their experiences of navigating the health and rehabilitation system through injury, treatment, and recovery.

Methods Building on an ongoing study about Black TBI narratives, this study used semi-structured interviews and analysis informed by a critical constructivist paradigm and a critical race theory lens. Data analysis draws on reflexive thematic analysis guided by Hardy's conceptualization of racial trauma.

Results: Themes illustrate the cumulative impact of racial trauma, both experienced prior to and during rehabilitation services. Traumas were associated with (1) the devaluation of Black bodies in their presentation and representation and (2) an assaulted sense of self leading to exacerbated manifestations of TBI symptoms and an orientation towards survival of health and rehabilitation institutions.

Conclusions: Findings point to the dire need for anti-racist racial trauma-informed care, which has important implications for clinical practice, research, and what it takes for Black people with TBI to live meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Lights Out: Exploring Sleep in Public Safety Families - A Scoping Review

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Introduction. Public safety personnel (PSP) provide essential services to ensure the public's security, facing occupational demands that affect their families. PSP families experience unique lifestyle dimensions including logistics (e.g., shift-work, relocation), risks (e.g., hazards, exposure), and identities (e.g., social expectations) that inevitably strain daily household activities and familial relationships. Sleep is an essential occupation as it affects engagement in everyday activities and overall health. However, the impact on sleep because of PSP lifestyle dimensions is not well understood in families, highlighting a need for a synthesis of the current literature.

Objective. This scoping review explores how sleep among PSP families is described and understood in the literature, and identifies potential gaps in research, programs, services, and policies to better support sleep in this population.

Methods. A comprehensive search strategy was developed to retrieve relevant, peer-reviewed studies from the Five Eyes countries published between 2001 through October 2024 across five academic databases.

Results. 30 articles were included for data analysis. Themes discovered include: (1) how the literature defines PSP families and sleep, (2) the impact of the lifestyle dimensions on families' sleep, (3) the correlation between sleep and family health, and (4) resources to support sleep in PSP families.

Conclusion. The literature describes gaps in the dynamics between sleep and daily functioning as it relates to the lifestyle dimensions of PSP families. This highlights the importance of recognizing sleep as an essential occupation for PSP families and requires further investigation to address sleep within the broader context of occupational therapy.

Serving Families, Serving Nations: A Scoping Review on the Experiences of Military-Connected Mothers

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Introduction. The transition to motherhood is a major occupational change; many mothers describe it as the central focus or main activity in their daily lives. For women in the military - another demanding, all-consuming occupation - the experience of motherhood may differ from that of civilian mothers. This topic is important to explore, with implications for recruitment and retention of servicewomen, the children of mothers who serve, and healthcare providers working with military-connected families.

Objective. This scoping review examines literature on the experiences of motherhood for women who are serving or have served in the military.

Methods. For this scoping review, a systematic multi-database search was conducted to identify relevant articles. Peer-reviewed, English-language articles originating from a Five Eyes Nation, a NATO country, or Israel and published between 1987-2025 were included in this study. Articles were analyzed using a combination of deductive and inductive coding. NVivo software was used to support the coding and thematic analysis process.

Results. The initial search identified 469 articles, of which 54 met the inclusion/exclusion criteria. Several main themes emerged from the literature: the intersection of service and the instrumental tasks of motherhood, service and the mother-child relationship, physical and mental health impacts of military service on mothers, intersection of motherhood and other identities, and organizational and personal support factors.

Conclusion. This scoping review provides insight into the unique experiences and challenges of military mothers. Findings point to important gaps in research and have implications for healthcare, policy, and support services for military families.

The Role of Occupational Therapy for Persons Living With Long COVID

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Introduction. Individuals living with long COVID experience persisting symptoms that negatively affect daily life, particularly their functional performance. Occupational therapists (OTs) can support this population through their expertise in physical, cognitive, and psychosocial health.

Objectives. This rapid review aims to describe the existing literature about the role of OT for adults and older adults with long COVID across the healthcare continuum.

Methods. A search was conducted across MEDLINE (Ovid), EMBASE, and CINAHL (Ebsco) databases from January 1, 2020, to December 4, 2024. Two reviewers screened search results and applied the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and two reviewers conducted data extraction and critical appraisal. The Joanna Briggs Institute Manual for Evidence Synthesis was used to guide search strategies and quality appraisal.

Results. Twenty-one articles were included for data extraction. The OT role involved supporting individuals with long COVID in their occupational engagement by addressing symptoms, including fatigue, weakness, cognitive and respiratory impairments. OT interventions were primarily delivered in rehabilitation settings and included retraining in activities of daily living and occupations, cognitive rehabilitation, physical and breathing exercises, patient education, return-to-work planning, and psychosocial support.

Conclusions. The OT role involved addressing long COVID symptoms to regain functional independence, primarily through patient education. A smaller number of studies focused on OT-specific interventions compared to those involving team-based interventions, highlighting the need for further research on the unique OT role. Research was concentrated in rehabilitation settings, emphasizing the importance of future studies to capture broader populations along the care continuum for more generalizable findings.

Beyond the Competency Framework: An Interpretive Description of Participant Guidance

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Introduction: Health and social care systems continue to evolve as complexity of health challenges and societal needs increase. Collaborative care guided by national frameworks, enhances comprehensive and efficient responses to these needs. As occupational therapists are increasingly recognized as key to interprofessional healthcare teams, they bring a unique, holistic perspective that enhances team dynamics and relationship-focused care.

Objectives: This qualitative study aims to explore how collaborative practice experts, including healthcare leaders/practitioners/educators and client/family partners, describe competencies needed to guide collaborative practice for today's healthcare landscape.

Methods: Researchers used an Interpretive Description approach to analyze data from national and international focus group participants who informed revisions to the 2010 Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC) National Interprofessional Competencies Framework.

Results: Emerging themes included: empowering team-based collaboration by guiding education and practice; reframing conflict as a catalyst for creative solutions; innovating strategies to cultivate equity and dismantle hierarchies; and championing distributed leadership to drive shared decision-making and collective accountability. Sub-themes included ideas about adaptability to diverse contexts, curiosity-driven role optimization, fostering relationship-based care and psychological safety, social/political influences, and virtual care's impact on collaboration.

Conclusions: To support students, practitioners, educators, and patients in addressing the complex needs within our health and social care systems, it is essential to ground collaborative practice in foundational themes that underpin competency enactment. Recommendations suggested serve as core enablers of effective team-based care and can inform future developments and global applications of interprofessional collaboration.

Neurodiversity affirming practice learning module: Evaluating how teaching tools influence transformative learning outcomes for OT students

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Introduction. The autistic community is calling on clinicians to adopt a neurodiversity-affirming approach. Integrating autistic people's lived experiences into occupational therapy (OT) education supports a shift to this approach. To address this call, a neurodiversity affirming learning module was developed and delivered to 118 OT students.

Objectives. The study objective was to develop and evaluate the learning module, which was co-created with autistic storytellers to challenge traditional healthcare approaches and enhance OT students' understanding of neurodiversity-affirming care through transformative pedagogy. Additionally, it aimed to collect student feedback to inform future module development.

Methods. A post-module mixed method survey comprised of Likert-scale and open-ended questions was developed to gather students' feedback. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and qualitative data were analyzed both inductively and deductively to assess students' experiences of transformative learning and which teaching tools contributed to changes in their thinking about traditional healthcare approaches.

Results. Of 29 completed surveys, over 95% of respondents found the module clear, well-paced, and of appropriate duration (90 minutes). Participants generally expressed positive perceptions of the content and its relevance to practice. They also indicated that the module encouraged reflection on personal and healthcare-related assumptions. Six key themes were identified through the qualitative analysis: impactful art-based stories, valued learning activities, diverse format preferences, valuing therapeutic skills, practical implications, and reflections for improvement.

Conclusion. The learning module showed promise for improving OT students' understanding of neurodiversity-affirming care through autistic storytelling and transformative learning theory, offering a model to guide future OT education.

Understanding who we serve: A retrospective chart review of people with multiple sclerosis referred to occupational and physical therapy services

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Introduction: Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic neurological condition characterized by relapsing and progressive deficits with a large variation in disease presentation. Symptoms of MS can greatly affect the quality of life for people with MS (PwMS) by disrupting participation and engagement in meaningful occupations. Occupational therapists (OT) and physical therapists (PT) play a critical role in supporting PwMS, yet referrals from physicians remain inconsistent.

Objectives: To identify clinical, social and demographic characteristics in PwMS at the BARLO MS Clinic referred to OT and/or PT services, compared to PwMS who are not referred to OT and or/PT services.

Methods: A retrospective chart review of patients' data who are referred and not referred to OT and/or PT, from March 2023 to February 2024. Demographic (e.g., age, sex, partial postal code), clinical (e.g., diagnosis, patients' primary concerns, symptoms), and social (e.g., living arrangements, work status) information will be extracted using Excel forms and analyzed using descriptive statistics and correlation analyses.

Results: Results to be obtained by research day. It is hypothesized that results will be informative of those referred or not referred to OT and/or PT services.

Conclusions: It is anticipated that this study will provide a greater understanding of the population served at the BARLO MS Clinic and will have implications for equitable service for PwMS. This research will benefit MS clinics and community resources by providing a deeper understanding of the services PwMS require through clinical, social and demographic characteristics.

Interventions to Address Cognitive Impairment in Adult Kidney Transplant Recipients - A Scoping Review

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Introduction. While kidney transplant (KT) is associated with improved health outcomes and quality of life compared to dialysis for people with kidney failure, cognitive impairment sometimes persists post-transplant. Since cognitive impairment can impact treatment plan adherence, quality of life and healthcare expenses in kidney transplant recipients (KTRs), it is important to identify interventions that are being used to address this concern.

Objective. To synthesize existing literature on interventions used to support cognitive impairment in KTR.

Methods. We performed a comprehensive search of Embase, MEDLINE, CINAHL for primary research articles investigating interventions aiming to mitigate cognitive impairment in adult kidney transplant recipients aged 18+. Title and abstract screening, full text review and data extraction was completed by two reviewers. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and narrative synthesis.

Results. Of 4050 studies identified for title and abstract screening, four studies met the inclusion criteria. Three studies investigated pharmacological interventions such as B-Vitamin Therapy, Intravenous Ferric Carboxymaltose and once-daily extended-release (LCP) tacrolimus. One study investigated a non-pharmacological nursing-based intervention. Cognition was assessed using both standardized tools (e.g. Mini-Mental State Exam and Montreal Cognitive Assessment) and non-standardized screening tools. Improvements in one or more cognitive domains were reported in three studies.

Conclusions. This scoping review demonstrates a lack of the literature on interventions to support KTRs with cognitive impairment. This highlights the need to develop increased treatment strategies that can support the cognitive health of the KTR population.

Exploring Concussion Education Resources for Canadian Youth Athletes

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Introduction: Commonly, youth participate in sports, which can increase their chances of experiencing a concussion. However, there is a limited number of concussion education resources available designed for youth athletes, leaving them underinformed on this important topic. Therefore, more resources need to be developed with youth athlete's needs in mind, to increase knowledge and awareness about concussions.

Objectives: This study aimed to identify and evaluate the available concussion education resources tailored towards youth athletes and make these resources available to youth sports teams across Canada through the Youth Concussion Awareness Network (You-CAN) Sport program. Further, this research intended to identify gaps in the existing resources, to inform future educational resource development.

Methods: A systematic environmental scan was used to identify concussion education resources. The Suitability of Assessment Materials (SAM) was then used to assess the relevance and appropriateness of the resources for youth athletes.

Results: 28 resources were identified with an average SAM score of 89% (range: 64% - 98%). A score of 80% or higher indicates that the resource is considered suitable for the youth athlete audience. Resource gaps were primarily identified around concussion prevention and mental health, and concussion. The systematic search revealed only three existing resources for mental health.

Conclusion: This study helped create a resource bank for youth athletes and provided an understanding of where gaps in concussion education resources for youth athletes lie. The findings of this study can be used to create additional concussion education resources to meet the educational needs of youth athletes.

My-MHAP: Mapping Youth Mental Health and Addiction Services in Northern Ontario

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Introduction. Despite a five-fold greater prevalence of youth suicide in the Sudbury-Manitoulin region (SMR) than the provincial average, research on the quality, accessibility, and interconnectivity of existing youth mental health and addictions (YMHA) programs is sparse. Meaningful reforms to northern YMHA practices must be substantiated by sociogeographic research.

Objectives. To 1) identify existing YMHA programs servicing the SMR, 2) describe YMHA service distribution, and 3) explore opportunities for evidence-based service optimization.

Methods. This electronic environmental scan (February to April 2025) targeted YMHA programs serving residents of the SMR, including any funding- or organizational-levels, across the care continuum. Search strategy development included keyword identification informed by one content expert, and an iterative seed search protocol advised by a research librarian. Searches were conducted via Google Advanced (Incognito).

Results. Descriptive statistics of N=331 programs revealed the majority were publicly funded, predominantly offered at the regional service level, accessed by self-referral via email or phone, and targeted to youth. However, the search process illuminated barriers to program access: inaccurate program listings; limited availability of comprehensive, integrated, or environmentally contextualized care (e.g., family and caregiver engagement, cultural relevance, geographic isolation); and informational biases embedded in database (Google) search algorithms.

Conclusions. Opportunities to optimize YMHA services in the SMR include improved digital stewardship of YMHA information and prioritization of holistic services for upstream prevention of adverse YMHA outcomes. This study urges further research into continuity of care, client-centered delivery models, and culturally safer practices to meet mental health and addictions needs of youth and their families in northern Ontario.

Congratulations to all of the students on their amazing work!!